

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00944 121659Z

61

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 SAM-01 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /050 W

----- 012060

R 121631Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2939

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0944

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATED PRESS DIFFICULTIES IN DAMASCUS--LUDINGTON CASE

REF: A. DAMASCUS 678; B. BEIRUT 2530

1. FARES HAS NOW RECEIVED HIS PRESS CREDENTIALS.
  2. ON BASIS DISCUSSION WHICH AMBASSADOR HAD WITH MININFO ISKANDER AHMAD LAST WEEK, WE CONCLUDE THEREIS AN INFORMAL "BLACKLIST" OF JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE WRITTEN MATERIAL DEEMED UNFAVORABLE TO SYRIA. PRESENT MININFO OPPOSES SUCH BLACKLIST. HOWEVER, HE HAS APPARENTLY AUTHORIZED DISTINCTION TO BE MADE BETWEEN THE "GOOD AND BAD" JOURNALISTS IN TERMS OF THE LEVEL WITHIN THE SARG OF OFFICIALS WHOM HIS MINISTRY WILL ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS. JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE SUBMITTED UNFAVORABLE STORIES DO NOT GET THE MINISTRY TO SUPPORT THEIR APPOINTMENT REQUESTS FOR MEETINGS WITH MINISTERS AND ABOVE.
  3. WE SECURED NO CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF ANY PROCEDURES RE PRIOR CLEARANCES FOR STORIES FILED FROM DAMASCUS. WILL PURSUE THIS SUBJECT FURTHER.
  4. RE LUDINGTON CASE: MININFO STATED FLATLY HE HELD FARES AND NOT LUDINGTON RESPONSIBLE FOR DECISION TO FILE STORIES WHICH LED TO LUDINGTON'S ARREST. MINISTER TOLD AMBASSADOR LUDINGTON COULD BE ASSURED HE NOT ON BLACKLIST
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AND WAS WELCOME BACK IN SYRIA. AT SAME TIME MINISTER



SAID HE WISHED BE PERSONALLY INFORMED PRIOR LUDINGTON'S  
NEXT VISIT HERE, IN ORDER HELP AVOID ANY  
COMPLICATIONS.  
MURPHY

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NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISCRIMINATION, JOURNALISTS, LICENSES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchantr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975DAMASC00944  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750087-0308  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 DAMASCUS 678, 75 BEIRUT 2530  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchantr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2003 by buchantr>  
**Review Markings:**

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**Review Referrals:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ASSOCIATED PRESS DIFFICULTIES IN DAMASCUS--LUDINGTON CASE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SY, US, AP-1, (FARES, LOUIS)  
**To:** BEIRUT  
**Type:** TE  
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